f. wherein a corrugated surface portion is formed in the outer wall of said connector body to reduce driving force as the fastener member is axially advanced along said connector body.

REMARKS

Applicant's captioned application, Serial No. 09/621,975, filed July 21, 2000, is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/910,509 ("the parent application"), filed August 2, 1997, for which a Notice of Allowability was issued on April 21, 2000, and for which the Issue Fee was paid on July 21, 2000.

Claims 2-14 appear in the present application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice in this preliminary amendment.

New claims 2-14 are presented for the purpose of provoking an interference with unexpired U.S. Patent No. 5,997,350 to Burris et al. (hereinafter "the Burris patent," Exhibit A), which issued on December 7, 1999. New claims 2-14 correspond exactly or substantially to claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Burris patent. The Burris patent was filed on June 8, 1998, which is later than the filing date (August 2, 1997) of the parent application of this continuation application. Consequently, any claim of the present application that is supported by the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should be allowed in light of the fact that the Burris patent was allowed and because the present application is entitled to the benefit of an earlier effective filing date.

In an Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith, all of the references cited in the Burris patent are listed, and copies of references listed therein that are not already of record in the parent application are submitted herewith.

Applicant also wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention certain related co-pending design applications, all of which were filed on April 28, 2000. The serial numbers for the co-pending design applications are: 29/122,505; 29/122,506; 29/122,508 and 29/122,509.

Claims 2-14 of the captioned application are clearly supported by the specification as originally filed. These claims are presented in claim chart format in Exhibit B, side by side with claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Burris patent, for comparison purposes. The claims as presented in Exhibit B are also annotated with bracketed references to figures

and reference characters, to clarify the similarities between the claims of the Burris patent and the present application.

New claim 2 is substantially the same as claim 1 of the Burris patent and is fully supported by the specification of the present application. New claim 2 is directed to a connector 10 (Fig. 1) for coupling the end of a coaxial cable 12 to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor 14 surrounded by a dielectric 20, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath 16, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket 22. (Specification, p. 8, lines 7-14; Fig. 1).

In claim limitation 2(a), a tubular post member (exemplified in Figs. 1 and 2 as ref. no. 26) has a first end 30 that accepts an exposed end of the coaxial cable 12 around the dielectric 20 and under the conductive grounding sheath 16. (Specification, p. 8, ll. 21-22; p. 10. ll. 22-29; Figs. 1 and 2). The tubular post also has an opposing second end indicated by opening 32 in Fig. 2.

Claim limitation 2(b) is directed to a nut 44 (Fig. 1) having a first end 48 for rotatably engaging the second end of the tubular post 26. An opposing second end of the nut has an internally threaded bore 46 for threadedly engaging a threaded port. (Fig. 1; p. 9, ll. 14-16; p. 11, ll. 21-23).

Claim limitation 2(c) claims a cylindrical body member 24 having a first end and a second end (indicated, for example, in Fig. 3 on the right and left sides, respectively, of cylindrical body member 24). The first end (or right-most portion) of cylindrical body member 24 includes a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter (indicated as "d" in Fig. 3). The cylindrical sleeve also has an inner wall (*see, e.g., id.* at location of ref. no. 40) bounding a first central bore 36 extending about the tubular post 26, and the second end (e.g, the left side) of cylindrical body member 24 engages the tubular post 26 proximate the second end thereof (e.g., proximate opening 32 as illustrated by Fig. 2). Additionally, the cylindrical sleeve (e.g., right side of cylindrical body member 24 in Fig. 1) has an open rear end portion 38 for receiving the outer jacket 22 of the coaxial cable 12. The open rear end portion is deformable, as described with respect to the embodiment of Fig. 7, wherein the volume of the open rear end portion or outer first cavity 138 is decreased when the "connector body is deformed radially inwardly." (Specification, p. 14, l. 3; Fig. 7).

New claim 2 also includes, in limitation 2(d), a compression ring 28 having first and second opposing ends (indicated, e.g., at Fig. 4, numbers 56 and 58, respectively). A

central passageway 60 extends through ring 28 between the first and second ends. The first end 56 of the compression ring 28 has a first internal bore 62 of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter (Fig. 3, "d") of the outer wall of the cylindrical sleeve. (See specification at p. 9, ll. 29-31): "The fastener member [i.e., compression ring] 28 is dimensioned and configured relative to the dimensions of the connector body 24 so that the fastener member 28 is securely attached to the connector body 24"; Figs. 1, 3 and 4). Thus, the first end 56 of the compression ring 28 may extend over the first end (e.g, right end as shown in Fig. 1) of the cylindrical body 24. The central passageway 60 of the compression ring 28 (exemplified by the illustration of Fig. 4), includes an inwardly tapered annular wall 66 leading from the first internal bore 62 and narrowing to a reduced diameter 64 as compared with the first predetermined diameter (Fig. 3, "d").

The final limitation of new claim 2, limitation 2(e), states that the inwardly tapered annular wall (e.g., Fig. 4, ref. no. 66) causes the rear end portion (Fig. 1, no. 38) of the cylindrical sleeve 24 to be deformed inwardly toward the tubular post 26 and against the jacket 22 of the coaxial cable 12 as the compression ring 28 is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member 24 toward the second end of the cylindrical body member (i.e., toward the left end of no. 24, as illustrated in Fig. 1).

In light of the foregoing, new claim 2 and claim 1 of the Burris patent claim the same patentable subject matter, and new claim 2 is fully supported by the specification of the captioned application. Because claim 1 of the Burris patent was allowed, and because the subject application has an earlier effective filing date, Applicant believes that new claim 2 is allowable and is patentable to the Applicant. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the examiner consider new claim 2 as the basis for an interference with claim 1 of the Burris patent.

The following chart is provided to summarize and clarify how the terminology used in new claim 2 (and claim 1 of the Burris patent) corresponds to language used in the present specification to describe the same structure. Claim elements are listed in the order in which they are claimed in claim 1 of the Burris application and in new claim 2:

Reference number from Burris patent	**Claim language used in claim 1 of Burris patent and new claim 2 of captioned application**	**Corresponding language from detailed description of captioned application**	Reference number example from drawings of captioned application
26	dielectric	insulator core	20
28	conductive grounding sheath	outer braid conductor	16
30	protective outer jacket	protective sheathing jacket	22
32	tubular post	tubular post member	26
38	nut	nut member	44
46	cylindrical body member	connector body	24
58	first central bore	first outer cavity	36
60	open rear end portion	open end	38
64	compression ring	fastener member	28
70	central passageway	second cavity	60
74	inwardly tapered annular wall	ramped surface	66
72	first internal bore	first inner bore	62

New claim 3 is clearly supported by the specification in that claim 3 is substantially the same as new claim 2, except that the terminology of claim 3 is taken explicitly from the detailed description of the subject application. As explained in detail with respect to new claim 2, and as shown in the chart, *supra*, the subject application uses slightly different nomenclature than does the Burris patent to describe identical or substantially similar elements. Because new claim 3 is substantially similar to new claim 2, and because new claim 2 is allowable, Applicant believes that new claim 3 is allowable and should be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 1 of the Burris patent.

New claim 4 covers the same patentable subject matter as claim 3 of the Burris patent and uses substantially the same wording as claim 3 of the Burris patent. New claim 4 is directed to the connector of new claim 2 wherein the compression ring 28 is mounted over

the first end of the cylindrical body (e.g, the right side of no. 24 in Fig. 1), but is not fully advanced, prior to installation over the end of a coaxial cable. New claim 4 is fully supported by the specification at, for example, p. 10, first full paragraph, which states that "[i]n a pre-installed first configuration as illustrated in FIG. 1, the fastener member 28 [the compression ring] is fastened onto the connector body 24." Additional support is provided by the embodiment of Figs. 9 and 10, in which detent 148 on the cylindrical body member 124 cooperates with a groove 150 on the compression ring 128 "to insure that the fastener member 128 [i.e., compression ring] is fastened to the connector body 124 [i.e., cylindrical body member] in its first configuration," prior to installation over the end of a coaxial cable. (Specification, p. 12, ll. 15-16).

Thus, new claim 4 is fully supported by the specification, and the subject matter of claim 4 is substantially similar to that which is claimed in claim 3 of the Burris patent. (*See, e.g.*, Burris patent, col. 4, ll. 23-25 and col. 6, ll. 10-14 for subject matter claimed in claim 3 of the Burris patent). Because claim 3 of the Burris patent was allowed, new claim 4 is allowable and claims subject matter that interferes with claim 3 of the Burris patent. Furthermore, since the captioned application has the benefit of an earlier filing date than the Burris patent, Applicant believes that the subject matter of new claim 4 is patentable to Applicant. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider new claim 4 as the basis for an interference with claim 3 of the Burris patent.

New claim 5 is substantially the same as new claim 4 (and claim 3 of the Burris patent), but the language of claim 5 is taken from explicit wording used in the subject specification to describe the structure of the connector. Because new claim 4 is allowable, and because new claim 5 is substantially similar to new claim 4, Applicant believes that new claim 5 is allowable and should be considered as the basis for an interference.

New claim 6, which depends from new claim 2, is drawn to the same patentable invention as claim 4 of the Burris patent and uses substantially similar wording as claim 4 of the Burris patent. The subject matter of new claim 6 is fully supported by the specification as follows: according to new claim 6, compression ring (Fig. 10, no. 128) is initially securely fastened to the sleeve (Fig. 9, right portion of no. 124) of said cylindrical body member 124 and connected thereto by a releasable connection (connection between detent 148 of Fig. 9 and groove 150 of Fig. 10) and wherein axial advancement of said compression ring 128 toward the second end (Fig. 9, left end of no. 124) of said cylindrical

body member separates the releasable connection between said compression ring and said cylindrical body member.

Claim 4 of the Burris patent is obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in light of new claim 6 of the earlier-filed subject application and U.S. Patent No. 4,354,721 to Luzzi (the "Luzzi patent," a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C), which is available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 4 recites that the "compression ring [Burris patent, Fig. 5, ref. no. 100] is initially integral with the sleeve [*id.*, 52] of said cylindrical body member [*id.*, 46] and connected thereto by a frangible connection [*id.*, 102], and wherein axial advancement of said compression ring toward the second end [*id.*, 50] of said cylindrical body member breaks the frangible connection between said compression ring and said cylindrical body member."

According to new claim 6 of the captioned application, the fastener member or compression ring (e.g., Fig. 10, ref. no. 128) and the sleeve of the connector body or cylindrical body member 124 (Fig. 9) are "securely fastened" to each other in the first configuration, i.e., before the fastener member 128 is axially advanced along the connector body 124. (*See, e.g.,* Specification, p. 12, ll. 26-29; Figs. 7, 9 and 10. *See also* p. 10, ll. 3-12; Fig. 3). This ensures that the fastener member is not lost prior to installation on a cable end. (*Id.* at p. 10, ll. 7-11). Fastener member 28 (Fig. 1) is also described in the specification as being "movably coupled to the connector body 24 so as to be capable of being moved on the connector body 24 from a first preassembled configuration to a second assembled configuration." (*Id.*, p. 9, ll. 32-34). The use of frangible couplings or connections to pre-position components is well known in the electrical connector art. The Luzzi patent, for example, uses a frangible pin (Exhibit C, Fig. 1, ref. no. 90) to hold components in a preassembled configuration until the proper torque is applied, at which point the pin breaks to allow final fastening of the parts.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to modify the connector of claim 6 of the present application according to the Luzzi patent by introducing a frangible connection that causes the compression ring and the sleeve of the cylindrical body member to be "initially integral," and wherein "axial advancement of said compression ring toward the second end of said cylindrical body member breaks the frangible connection," as claimed in claim 4 of the Burris patent. Claim 4 of the Burris patent is therefore obvious in light of claim 6 of the present application and prior art such as the Luzzi patent. Furthermore,

because new claim 6 is fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112 by the application and is drawn to the same patentable invention as Burris' claim 4, new claim 6 is allowable. New claim 6 is also entitled to the benefit of an earlier filing date than claim 4 of the Burris patent; thus, the subject matter of new claim 6 is patentable to the Applicant. Applicant respectfully requests that new claim 6 be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 4 of the Burris patent.

New claim 7 is substantially the same as new claim 6 (and claim 4 of the Burris patent), but the language of claim 7 is taken from explicit wording used in the subject specification to describe the structure of the connector. Because new claim 6 is allowable, and because new claim 7 is substantially similar to new claim 6, Applicant believes that new claim 7 is allowable and should be considered as the basis for an interference.

New claim 8, which depends from new claim 2, is drawn to the same patentable invention as claim 5 of the Burris patent and uses substantially the same wording as claim 5, of the Burris patent. New claim 8 is fully supported by the present specification. According to new claim 8, the cylindrical body member (see, e.g., Fig. 5, ref. no. 24) includes an enlarged diameter shoulder 70 generally between the first and second ends thereof (e.g., right and left ends, respectively, of no. 24), said enlarged diameter shoulder 70 having a diameter larger than the first predetermined diameter (e.g., Fig. 3, "d") of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve (e.g., the right portion of no. 24), the first end (Fig. 4, no. 56) of said compression ring 28 engaging, and being stopped by, said enlarged diameter shoulder 70 when said compression ring 28 has been fully axially advanced over said cylindrical sleeve. As described in the specification, the enlarged diameter shoulder is a flange that is "provided to engage the fastener member 28 at its second configuration," i.e., after the fastener member has been fully axially advanced along the connector body 24. (p. 10, ll. 13-20). As Figs. 3 and 5 clearly illustrate, flange 70 has a diameter larger than the first predetermined diameter "d" of Fig. 3.

Claim 5 of Burris likewise claims "an enlarged diameter shoulder generally between the first and second ends" of the cylindrical body member, wherein the enlarged diameter shoulder (see Burris patent, Fig. 1, ref. no. 88) has "a diameter larger than the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall" (*id.*, 54) of the cylindrical sleeve (*id.*, 52). The enlarged diameter shoulder engages and stops the first end (*id.*, 66) of the compression ring (*id.*, 64) when the compression ring has been fully axially advanced over the cylindrical

sleeve. (*See* Burris patent, col. 6, ll. 31-40 for subject matter claimed in claim 5 of the Burris patent).

Claim 5 of the Burris patent is obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and/or is anticipated by new claim 8 of the earlier-filed subject application, because new claim 8, like claim 5 of Burris, is directed to an enlarged diameter shoulder (described in the subject specification as flange 70) that engages and stops the compression ring when the compression ring has been fully axially advanced over the cylindrical sleeve (i.e., at the "second configuration" as described in the specification at, e.g., p. 10, ll. 17-18). Also, new claim 8 and Burris' claim 5 both depend from independent claims that have been shown, *supra*, to claim the same subject matter. The captioned specification also provides full support under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for new claim 8, as discussed *supra*. Because Burris' claim 5 and new claim 8 are drawn to the same patentable subject matter, new claim 8 is allowable. Furthermore, because new claim 8 has the benefit of an earlier filing date than the Burris patent, the invention of new claim 8 is patentable to the Applicant. Applicant respectfully requests that new claim 8 be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 5 of the Burris patent.

New claim 9 is substantially the same as new claim 8 (and claim 5 of the Burris patent), except that the wording of claim 9 is explicitly taken from the detailed description of the subject application. Because new claim 9 is substantially similar to new claim 8, and because new claim 8 is allowable, Applicant believes that new claim 9 is also allowable and should be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 5 of the Burris patent.

New claim 10 is drawn to the same patentable invention as claim 6 of the Burris patent and uses substantially similar wording as Burris' claim 6. As the claim chart of Exhibit B indicates, new claim 10 incorporates all of the limitations of claim 2, plus the following:

f. wherein said cylindrical sleeve of said cylindrical body member has a circular relief formed therein to facilitate bending of said cylindrical sleeve as said compression ring is axially advanced thereover.

The subject matter of new claim 10 is fully supported by the specification as shown by the circular relief or corrugated surface portion 146 of Fig. 9 and by the detailed

description at p. 12, ll. 9-14. According to the specification, the "corrugated surface portion is believed to reduce the driving force needed to move or slide fastener member 128 (i.e., the compression ring) along the connector body 124." (Specification, p. 12, ll. 12-14). The corrugated surface portion is also visible in the connector 110 illustrated in Fig. 7, where the fastener member 128 or compression ring is in a first configuration or position before being axially advanced over the cylindrical sleeve (i.e., the right portion of connector body 124). Advancement of the compression ring 128 toward the left in Fig. 7, over the cylindrical sleeve, causes the cylindrical sleeve to bend radially inward. The presence of the corrugated surface portion reduces the cylindrical sleeve's resistance to bending and reduces the driving force needed to axially advance the compression ring over the cylindrical sleeve. Thus, the corrugated surface portion facilitates bending of the cylindrical sleeve as the compression ring is axially advanced thereover, as claimed in new claim 10. (*See, e.g.*, Fig. 12 for a view of the compression ring 128 in its second configuration after being axially advanced over the cylindrical sleeve).

Claim 6 of the Burris patent is obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and/or is anticipated by new claim 10, which has the benefit of an earlier filing date. Burris' claim 6 recites a circular relief formed in the cylindrical sleeve of the cylindrical body member. The circular relief is illustrated at ref. no. 62 of Fig. 1 and is described in the Burris specification as "a circular relief, or weakened area 62, formed therein [in the cylindrical sleeve 52] as by cutting a circular groove thereabout, to facilitate bending of cylindrical sleeve 52 at such point." (Burris patent, col. 5, ll. 39-42).

New claim 10 contains the same patentable subject matter as claim 6 of the Burris patent. The circular relief claimed by Burris is substantially the same as the corrugated surface portion described in Applicants' specification, because both elements comprise a circular groove formed in the cylindrical sleeve of the cylindrical body member, and because both the circular relief and the corrugated surface portion facilitate the radially inward bending of the cylindrical sleeve as the compression ring/fastener member is axially advanced thereover.

Because the Applicant's parent application was filed before the application that became the Burris patent, Applicant believes that new claim 10 anticipates and/or renders obvious Burris' claim 6. Also, new claim 10 should be allowed, because it derives § 112 support from the specification and because the substantially identical claim 6 of the Burris

patent was allowed. Furthermore, new claim 10 and Burris' claim 6 contain interfering subject matter that Applicant believes is patentable to the Applicant. Therefore, Applicant requests the Examiner to consider new claim 10 as the basis for an interference with claim 6 of the Burris patent.

New claim 11 is also directed to the same patentable invention as claim 6 of the Burris patent and uses substantially similar wording as claim 6 of the Burris patent. New claim 11 incorporates all of the limitations of new claim 2, plus the following:

f. wherein said cylindrical sleeve of said cylindrical body member has a tapered section formed therein to facilitate bending of said cylindrical sleeve as said compression ring is axially advanced thereover.

New claim 11 uses virtually the same wording as new claim 10, except that new claim 11 incorporates a tapered section to facilitate the bending of the cylindrical sleeve, whereas claim 10 comprises a corrugated surface portion to accomplish the same function. Full support for new claim 11 is found in the specification, which states: "[a]s shown in FIG. 9, the connector body wall tapers as at 145 to facilitate the generally radial movement of the connector body 124 when the fastener member 128 is moved into its second configuration," i.e., when the fastener member is axially advanced over the connector body. (p. 12, ll. 9-11).

The subject matter of new claim 11 is substantially the same as that of claim 6 of the Burris patent, in part because the tapered section of new claim 11 performs the same function as the circular relief of claim 6 of the Burris patent. In new claim 11, the taper 145 facilitates the "generally radial movement" of connector body 124, which is another way of saying that the taper facilitates bending of part of the connector body as the fastener member or compression ring 128 is axially advanced thereover. Claim 6 of the Burris patent claims a "circular relief" formed in the cylindrical body member to facilitate bending. As noted previously, this limitation is described in the Burris specification as "a circular relief, or weakened area 62, formed therein as by cutting a circular groove thereabout, to facilitate bending of cylindrical sleeve 52 of such point." (Burris patent, col. 5, ll. 39-42; *see also* Figs. 1 and 2).

Claim 6 of the Burris patent is obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in light of claim 11 of the present, earlier-filed application and U.S. Patent No. 5,024,606 to Ming-Hwa

(the "Ming-Hwa patent," Exhibit D). The use of weakening structures to facilitate bending, in the context of coaxial cable connectors, is disclosed in the Ming-Hwa patent, which is available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Ming-Hwa patent teaches the use of a circular relief in the cylindrical body housing to facilitate bending when a compression ring is axially advanced. This feature is described in the preferred embodiment of the Ming-Hwa patent as "an annular groove 15 [shown in Fig. 2], permitting clamping plate 14 to be deformed and displaced inward." (Ming-Hwa patent, col. 3, ll. 11-13). Accordingly, the combination of claim 11 of the present application and the Ming-Hwa patent suggest a connector having a circular relief on the cylindrical sleeve of the cylindrical body member to facilitate bending of the cylindrical sleeve as a compression ring is axially advanced thereover, as recited in claim 6(f) of the Burris patent. Taken together, new claim 11 and the Ming-Hwa patent render claim 6 of the Burris patent obvious.

It would have been obvious to modify the invention of new claim 11 in light of the Ming-Hwa patent to achieve the invention of Burris' claim 6. Also, new claim 11 is entitled to an earlier filing date than claim 6 of the Burris patent. Therefore, new claim 11 and Burris' claim 6 are drawn to the same patentable invention. Because Burris' claim 6 was allowed, new claim 11 is allowable. New claim 11 therefore claims subject matter that interferes with claim 6 of the Burris patent. In light of the earlier filing date of the parent application of the captioned continuation application, and in light of the fact that new claim 11 is fully supported under 35 U.S.C. §112 by the specification, Applicant believes that new claim 11 is patentable to the Applicant. Applicant respectfully requests that new claim 11 be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 6 of the Burris patent.

New claim 12 is substantially the same as new claim 10 (and claim 6 of the Burris patent), but the language of new claim 12 is taken directly from wording used in the subject specification to describe how the cylindrical sleeve of the connector body (e.g., Fig. 9, ref. no. 124) has a corrugated surface portion 146 formed therein to facilitate radial movement of said cylindrical sleeve as said fastener member (e.g., Fig. 10, ref. no. 128) is axially advanced thereover. (*See* specification at p. 12, ll. 9-14). Although new claim 12 uses different terminology than claim 10 (or claim 6 of the Burris patent), all of the claim elements of claim 12 have already been shown *supra* to be identical to, or substantially similar to, claim elements that use terminology from Burris' claims. For example, the connector body of new claim 12 corresponds to the cylindrical body member (terminology

used in the Burris patent), and the corrugated surface portion of new claim 12 corresponds to the circular relief mentioned in new claim 10 and claim 6 of the Burris patent. Because new claim 10 is allowable, and because new claim 12 is substantially similar to new claim 10, Applicant believes that new claim 12 is allowable and should be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 6 of the Burris patent.

New claim 13 covers the same patentable subject matter as claim 7 of the Burris patent and uses substantially the same wording as claim 7 of the Burris patent. New claim 13 incorporates all of the limitations of new claim 2, plus the following:

f. wherein a series of grooves are formed in the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve to reduce drag as the compression ring is axially advanced over said cylindrical sleeve.

The specification of the present application fully supports new claim 13, stating that: "[t]he connector body 124 can also include a corrugated surface portion 146," designed to "reduce the driving force needed to move or slide fastener member 128 along connector body 124." (Specification, p. 12, ll. 11-14; *see also* Figs. 9 and 12).

Limitation 7(f) of new claim 13 addresses the same subject matter as limitation 7(f) of claim 7 of the Burris patent. According to Burris' claim 7(f), "a series of grooves are formed in the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve to reduce drag as the compression ring is axially advanced over said cylindrical sleeve." The claimed "series of grooves" is illustrated in Fig. 1 of the Burris patent and is described in Burris' specification at col. 6, ll. 44-47. The "series of grooves" of the Burris patent is the same subject matter as the captioned application's corrugated surface portion 146, which likewise contains a series of grooves on the outer wall of the connector body, near the right side thereof as illustrated in Figs. 7, 9 and 12. The corrugated surface portion 146 of the captioned application reduces the driving force needed to move or slide the fastener member along the conductor body. Reducing the driving force is equivalent to the function of "reducing drag as the compression ring is axially advanced over said cylindrical sleeve," as claimed by Burris.

For these reasons, and for the reasons discussed above with respect to limitations (a) through (e), claim 13 of the earlier-filed captioned application anticipates and/or renders obvious claim 7 of the Burris patent. Claim 13 is also fully supported under

35 U.S.C. § 112 by the specification. Additionally, because new claim 13 is drawn to the same invention as Burris' claim 7, which was allowed, new claim 13 is allowable. New claim 13 is entitled to an earlier filing date than the Burris patent; therefore, Applicant believes the invention of new claim 13 is patentable to Applicant. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that new claim 13 be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 7 of the Burris patent.

New claim 14 is substantially the same as new claim 13 (and claim 7 of the Burris patent), but the language of new claim 14 is taken directly from the subject specification to indicate structure and function that correspond to the limitations spelled out by Burris claim 7 (and new claim 13). The specification provides support for limitation 14(f) at p. 12, ll. 11-14; limitation 14(f) contains the only subject matter that is not already recited in new claim 3. As indicated in the claim chart of Exhibit B, new claim 14 includes identical wording to new claim 3 (which has already been shown to be allowable, *supra*) plus limitation 14(f). Limitation 14(f) is identical to limitation 13(f), except that limitation 14(f) takes its wording from the captioned specification. For example, limitation 14(f) recites a "corrugated surface portion" (discussed in the specification at, e.g., p.12, ll. 11-12), whereas limitation 13(f) copies the wording used in the Burris patent and recites "a series of grooves." The claim elements that take their wording from the captioned application have all been compared *supra* to the claim elements that use Burris' terminology and have been shown to be identical or substantially similar. (*See, e.g.*, the chart *supra* that compares Burris' claim language with corresponding language from the captioned application). Claim 13 has already been shown to be allowable, and new claim 14 claims the same patentable subject matter as new claim 13. Therefore, Applicant believes that new claim 14 is allowable and should be considered as the basis for an interference with claim 7 of the Burris patent.

In summary, Applicant respectfully requests: (1) that new claims 2-14 be indicated as allowable, (2) that an interference be declared between the captioned application and U.S. Patent No. 5,997,350 to Burris and (3) that new claims 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, and 13-14 be considered as the bases for an interference with claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, respectively of the Burris patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures